A REPLY TO The Excellent and Elegant SPEECH MADE BY Sir Thomas Player,

The Worthy Chamberlain of *London*,

To the Right Honble the Lord Mayor, *&c.*

On Friday the 12th of *September*, 1679.

By H. B. *an unworthy Member of the ſaid Citie; but could not be heard or underſtood then.*

MY LORD,

I Cannot but wonder at the manner as well as the ſubject matter of Sir *T.P.* his Diſcourſe. As to the manner, I ſuppoſe he might have inform'd your Lordſhip and the Court of Aldermen of any danger the Citie were in, upon any account whatſoever, without bringing an hundred perſons at his heels. I muſt take the boldneſs to tell him, that it lookt more like a tumultuous number of Apprentices doing execution upon Bawdie-houſes, than any ſolid conſiderate way of adviſing good for the Citie or Kingdom. But I ſuppoſe the great Policie of that, might have Three Conſiderations: one, to ſhew that he is able to lead up his men: another, that he is able to make an excellent Speech: or thirdly, that he, for his great zeal and love to the Citie and Nation, was ſollicited by thoſe perſons, out of their great fears and apprehenſions of dangers partly created by himſelf.

I am very ſorry that a Gentleman ſhould have given occaſion for any Citizen to have ſaid ſo much: but any thing concerning his Highneſs had been received better from another hand than his, becauſe of the known Grudge.

Next, as to the ſubject matter, he ſeems to be very much offended at the Citie's being Libell'd in the *Intelligencer*, by ſaying that the Citie ſhould ſend to congratulate his Highneſs his return: As if it were ſuch an immortal ſtain to the reputation of the Citie, never to be deleted! I wonder it was never taken notice of before. Had we congratulated him now, it had not been the firſt time. When he return'd from Sea, where he hazarded his life for the maintaining of our Trade, (which we are the gainers by) and had been in the heat of fight, where ſeveral Noble-men were killed about him, we could then congratulate him, as alſo did the Nation with a Preſent. He did not want Honour or Preferment, to do this for us. But we might have congratulated him, as he hath condeſcended to be a Member of us.

If his Highneſs had ſo much malice in him as to neceſſitate us to be upon our Guards in the nature propoſed, ſurely he would never have ventur'd himſelf as a private Sea-man, for our ſervice.

Neither can I conceive any ſuch great danger of our Religion, ſince his Majeſtie is living, and well (God be thanked.) His Highneſs his Title may never happen. Beſides, the Aſſembly of Parliament, and our Members there, will take care of us in that point.

We ſpeak well of our King generally, although I am afraid there be ſome amongſt us that are ſorry they can't ſpeak otherwiſe, to further their deſignes of enſlaving us under a parcel of Factious and Ambitious fellows. And I hope there be yet perſons ſufficient amongſt us (upon diſcovery of any ſuch deſignes) to correct any ſort of Faction againſt the King, Laws, and Eſtabliſhed Government, whether Popiſh, or any other predominant among

among us : for neither the one nor the other (I am aſſured) conſiſt with the Freedom of the Subject.

We cry out of Arbitrary Government, and I know not what beſides, with which the Vulgar are amuſed : whilſt we in our Government in the Citie are the moſt guilty of Arbitrarineſs in the execution of the Laws that we be Judges of, of any body elſe. For how many Thouſand pounds *per annum* come into our Purſes by a Knack of chuſing Sheriffs, in making choice of perſons whoſe occaſions we know will not permit them to ſerve that Office ; and then, to excuſe them, we muſt have Four or five hundred pound apiece ? with many ſuchlike Devices. And how many young Citizens have been undone by moneys paid for coming on of our Liveries ; a Tax more conſiderable than twenty Publique Taxes for the ſupport of the Government ? Theſe things, beſides a great number more, we have and ſhall finde will leſſen our Trade and Intereſt ; elſe would not our houſes ſtand unlet, and our ſhops be uncuſtom'd.

When the King had thanked us for our Care in raiſing the *Militia*, and making the Citie a Gariſon, for the preſervation of his perſon ; His Majeſtie told us he would take care of himſelf, yet this would not make us lay down our Arms. Nor do I know by what Law the Lieutenancie there can make us keep them up. 'Tis true, the Lieutenancie themſelves, or we that are the principal men, value not the Charge, being little to us, in compariſon of what it is to the poor Trades-men, who had more need be minding their buſineſs, than they or their ſervants ſo employed, to the debauchery of the youth of the Citie. And many of thoſe mean perſons that are forced to be at this intolerable charge, will be fit for nothing, but to give aſſiſtance in any new Rebellion.

And if you pleaſe to peruſe the Statutes for ſetling the *Militia*, you'll finde there how our Trained Bands are to be marſhal'd : That in caſe of Invaſion or Inſurrection, every Souldier is to be

13 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 6.
14 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 3.

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provided of one Months pay ; but no perſon to be charged further, until the ſaid Months pay be reimburſed him. And in times of peace, the General Muſter and Exerciſe of Regiments not to be above once a year. That the Training and Exerciſing ſingle Companies be not above four times a year, unleſs upon ſpecial Direction by the King or Privie Council ; and the ſame not to continue above two days, *&c.* Theſe Acts were made with abundance of Conſideration for the Liberty of the Subject, that the King ſhould not lay any extraordinary burden upon our eſtates, upon any pretence whatſoever. And I wonder how it hath been ſubmitted unto by our pretence of Authority ſo long, being abſolutely againſt Law.

It's impoſſible for us to thrive in the Citie, whilſt we amuſe our ſelves with theſe kinde of Fears. Let us truſt God and the King with the Government : let's mend our ſelves at home, and endeavour to encourage and increaſe the Trade of the Citie. When the King or Government is in danger, we ſhall hear of it time enough : or if the King hath a minde to make us of his Privie Council, he knows his own time for it. Certainly the King hath more to loſe than any of us.

I muſt refer it to your Lordſhips conſideration, whether we ought to take notice of this *Intelligencer* as a Libeller or not ; and alſo whether there be occaſion for any Guards at all, for the conſiderations aforeſaid.

FINIS.

J. Grant Collection
28 May 1913